

27 February 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: S. 782

1. I spent one-half hour today with Kenneth E. BeLieu, a Deputy Assistant to the President for Congressional Relations, discussing strategy and tactics in regard to S. 782. I told him of our meeting with Senator Ervin and that there was obviously no hope of progress there. I said that since Senator Ervin had made such a point of the fact that last year we had not even asked for a hearing, we were going to submit a letter to him as Chairman of the Subcommittee asking for a hearing in executive session. I said that Senator Eastland had approved doing this. Mr. BeLieu agreed and suggested that we refer to the practice of appearing before our own Subcommittees only in executive session. I said the Director was also thinking of a letter to the President, and Mr. BeLieu, after some hesitation, agreed that such a letter should be written but delivered to him.

2. Mr. BeLieu asked about the Civil Service Commission and I said I understood Mr. Robert E. Hampton, the Chairman, was against the bill. I told him I had talked to their General Counsel, Mr. Anthony L. Mondello, who was very much opposed to the bill and thought he could do some work with Senator Kennedy's staff. Thereupon Mr. BeLieu called Mr. Hampton, and it was obvious they were in agreement as to their opposition to the bill. Mr. BeLieu suggested to Mr. Hampton that every effort should be made to have general executive branch opposition to the bill and take CIA and the other intelligence components out of the lime-light. Apparently Mr. Hampton agreed, and they also agreed to take a sounding within the next week or so of such Senators as:

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Everett M. Dirksen  
Roman L. Hruska  
Hugh Scott  
Robert C. Byrd  
Edward M. Kennedy

and then, according to what developed, they would plan a further course of action.

3. Mr. BeLieu told me he would like to see letters to Senators Eastland and Ervin from the heads of all departments opposing the bill. I asked who we should be in touch with in the Bureau of the Budget, and Mr. BeLieu said to let that rest until it became an issue.

4. I told Mr. BeLieu I was trying to schedule a meeting with appropriate people in the Department of Justice to assure we had their support on the legal aspects. He agreed with this. I also told him we were going to brief Senator McClelland on Saturday morning, 1 March, and he said he would be most interested in his reaction.

5. Mr. BeLieu wanted a current list of the members of our Subcommittees in the Senate, and Mr. Maury's office has been requested to furnish this.

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LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON  
General Counsel

cc: Executive Director  
DDS  
Legislative Counsel  
OGC chrono  
✓subject LEGISLATION S. 782  
OGC:LRH:jeb

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